

What Your Child Can Expect When They Come to the Hand Center of Western Massachusetts

- After you check in, you and your child will be shown to one of the exam rooms. There are reading materials in the exam rooms, but a parent may want to have some toys or other distractions available for younger children.



- Your child will then be seen by one of the hand and upper extremity surgeons in our practice: Dr. Jeffrey Wint, Dr. Bruce Wintman, or Dr. Richard Martin. You can be assured that at every visit to our practice, your child will be evaluated by a doctor.
- Your doctor will start out with some questions and then move on to a physical examination. He will take great care in examining the injured extremity, being as gentle as possible.
- X-rays of the injured hand or wrist may be necessary even if X-rays were obtained in the past. This may be for a number of reasons including checking the current position of a fracture, looking for unrecognized fractures, or requiring special views of the bones and joints. If an X-ray is needed, your child should not worry. This is not a painful process. Our Certified X-ray Technician will be there with your child throughout the process and to help position the injured upper extremity. The parent need only step out of the X-ray room momentarily while the X-ray is taken.
- After the X-ray is processed and evaluated, you will be seen again by the doctor to go over the findings and discuss the diagnosis and treatment.



- Treatment depends on the injury but may range from splinting, casting, closed reduction to surgery. Your doctor will review all the options and give you his recommendations. Your doctor will make sure you and your child have a chance to ask any questions you might have.
- If casting is necessary, there is a separate room with casting supplies where both you and your child will be brought. Applying the cast is not usually painful; however, if some reduction of the fracture is necessary, your surgeon will warn you and your child ahead of time.



- Many children wonder whether removing a cast will hurt. *It does not.* The cast saw is loud and vibrates, so it may be a bit unsettling. It will not cut your child's skin.

